THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Rationalisation and simplification of procedures of Income-tax structure in the country is a continuous exercise and is engaging the attention of the Government for a long time. During this year with a view to removing procedural hardships and simplify some of the complicated legal provisions, Government has constituted four study Groups of officers of the Income-tax Department to look into specific areas. The suggestions of these groups shall be considered alongwith other pre-budget momoranda received from trade and professional bodies and suggestions received from others.

Financial Assistance by NABARD to States

850. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a considerable amount is yet to be released by (NABARD) to various States in respect of amounts paid by them under Agriculture and Rural Debt Relief Scheme of 1990-91;

(b) if so, the details of amount to be released, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in release of these dues; and

(d) the time by when all overdue amounts are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) and (b) National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that an amount of Rs. 1.168 crores is yet to be released by way of grant and loan to Jammu and Kashmir State Co-operative Bank Ltd. by way of final settlement. The claims of all other co-operative banks in other States to the extent admissible have been settled.

(c) and (d) The release of dues in respect of Jammu & Kashmir SCB Ltd. was delayed in view of the non-availability of annewari certificate in certain districts of the State, as provided for in the provisions of the Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990. The disbursement of funds is consequent on release of funds by the RBI.

Financial Assistance for Encouraging Adventure Tourism in Gujarat

851. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Gujarat Government seeking financial assistance for encouraging adventure tourism in the State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken to accord sanction to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Based on the proposals received from the State Government, Central financial assistance was provided for the implementation of following projects for encouraging adventure tourism in Gujarat: